Dear Paul and Gary 10/25/69

When I went to the Archives yesterday I was behind schedule and really didn't have time to do any work. Simmons, who is always willing to be accomodating, met me at the front door with what I had ordered last week, or most of it. He apologized for the color pictures of the original autopsy holograph of CE 397 not having been returned from processing, rather a longer time having elapsed that usual. And he said he had asked the xerox room to do the best it could with the rather poor copies in the file (CD27). In some cases I think it will be a futility to try and copy them. Instead I shall give you memos on them and ask that other files be searched for better copies, for at least one is quite significant and what we have long sought.

I was parked illegally and he was not as coherent as he might have been. When we spoke by phone, he said he had discussed something with Marion and had been told that CE1114 had been declassified (long ago). Because I did not really understand why Johnson had said this or what Simmons was saying, I asked him to write it out for me. He did. It reads

"CE1114
"Department of State Oswald File IX
"Department of State Oswald File X
"Department of State Oswald File XII
"The above files
"Unclassified
"By Authority of E.O. 10501 Date 11-5-53
" By 'AM' 11/6/64"

Hasty and perhaps erroneous deductions from the above lead me to believe there are at least 12 State Oswald files, that nine are still classified and possibly not in the Archives, and that they really were never classified so far as those of us who have worked in the Archives are concerned, for none had access by 11/6/64, which is before the 26 were available to us.

Before inquiring further into this I would welcome your opinions and suggestions, if any.

I just do not understand what it was I asked for or about that inspired Johnson's recollection of these three State files of CE1114. I had asked for only the names in my list of 10/17/69. The repetition of my name at the top of the memo and everything below my name at the botto, they added. Bud was with me the day I handed them this, for I wanted him to see the holograph. I take it the first asterisk, Secret Service, means they checked the Secret Service card file, to which I have earlier alluded

On this subject, if the group of young people from whom I hope to get some help are willing, after they have done what I wrote you about day before yesterday and if they are willing, perhaps there will be enough of them to undertake to copy these 6,000 cards, if feasible.

Attached is the best copy I could make of this annotated list. I will delay the other copying, some of which may not be feasible, given the poor original quality, until after daylight, when the light here will be better.